

KONANTZIA, A NEW GENUS IN THE ORCHIDACEAE  
FROM WESTERN ECUADOR

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A monotypic genus in the Oncidiinae is proposed for an unusual plant with vestigial apical leaves on the pseudobulbs, and minute flowers on elongate paniculate inflorescences.

*Konantzia* Dodson & N. Wms., gen. nov.

Planta epiphytica habitu *Erycinae echinatae* (HBK) Lindl. pseudobulbi ovati folio apicali vestigiali basi vaginis foliaceis curvumcincti. Folia crassa carnosaque. Inflorescentia lateralis elongata paniculata dense florifera. Flores minuti, labello ecalcarato. Columna elongata apoda sine alis. Pollinia 2, stipite ligulato.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Sr. Max Konantz of Guayaquil, Ecuador, who discovered the plant.

TYPE: *Dodson 6832* (SEL).

*Konantzia minutiflora* Dodson & N. Wms., sp. nov.

Planta mediocris epiphytica, pseudobulbis parvis leviter compressis, foliis duris, inflorescentis paniculata usque 45 cm longa multiflora, floribus minutis albis, labello purpureo punctate ecalcarato.

Epiphytic, roots fasciculate, stems creeping; pseudobulbs round to ovate, slightly flattened, to 3 cm x 2 cm, apical leaf aborted, surrounded at the base by several conduplicate, imbricating sheaths, the uppermost pair foliate, leaves narrowly elliptical, acute, thick and fleshy, hard, articulate with the sheath near the base, dark green above with red punctations dispersed over the surface. Inflorescence from the base of the pseudobulbs, elongate, erect, to 45 cm long, paniculate, with the secondary branches densely-flowered, basal nodes provided with several appressed, tubular sheaths to 1 cm long; floral bracts small, triangular, to 0.5 mm long. Flowers tiny, white with purple spots inside the lip, sepals and petals forming a tube around the column and lip; dorsal sepal broadly ovate, obtuse, fleshy, to 2 x 1 mm; lateral sepals connate for one-third of their length, erect, ovate, deeply saccate at the base, acuminate, the synsepalum to 2 x 1.5 mm; petals erect obliquely ovate, to 1.8 x 0.8 mm; lip without a spur, obovate-spatulate, with the basal margins swollen to form a pair of thick, fleshy longitudinal calli, enlarged toward the base, to 2 x 1 mm; column footless, relatively slender, free from the lip, wingless, slightly arcuate.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in reference to the tiny flowers.

TYPE: ECUADOR: CHIMBORAZO: Pallatanga road at Caluma, collected by Max Konantz, alt. 800 m, 2 Aug. 1977, *Dodson 6832* (SEL).

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED: ECUADOR: COTOPAXI: Near Macuchi, Quevedo-Latacunga, alt. 1600 m, 18 Apr. 1980, *Dodson & Morgan 9312* (SEL).

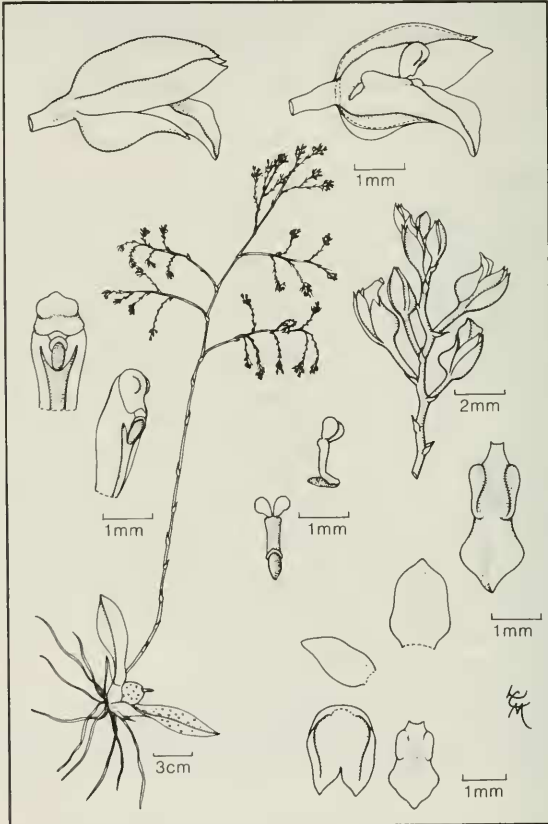
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DISTRIBUTION : Western Ecuador.

This species has also been collected at Eloy Alfaro in Manabí Province (R. Estrada, pers. comm.). The peculiar reduced apical leaves on the pseudobulb while the lateral leaves are well developed are found in the unrelated genus *Erycina*.

*Konantzia* differs from the related genera *Hybochilus* Schltr., *Leochilus* Knowles and Westc. and *Mesospinidium* Rchb. f. in the relatively slender column with wings or auricles, and from *Diadenium* Poepp. & Endl. and allied genera in the lack of a spur of foot on the lip. It differs from *Ionopsis* Kunth by the much smaller and acute lip with large basal calli.



KONANTZIA MINUTIFLORA Dodson & N. Wms.